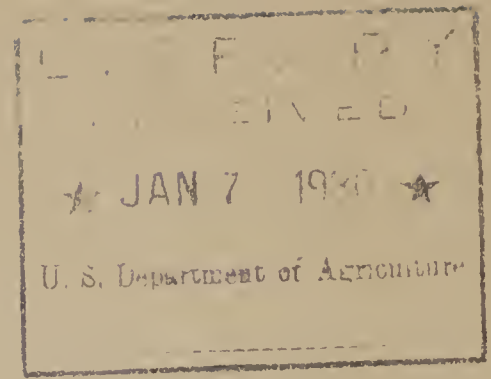


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio talk by Mr. W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, December 24, 1929 at 1:10 p. m. Eastern Standard Time.

FIBER FLAX

Did you know that this country offers the best market in the world for linen goods, the importations of manufactured linens have increased in value from about \$20,000,000 annually in pre-war years to more than \$50,000,000 in 1924. Certain sections of the country are adapted to the growing of flax and Farmers' Bulletin No. 6-6-9 entitled "Fiber Flax," tells how. This bulletin can be procured like all other Farmers Bulletins free of charge so long as the supply lasts by addressing either the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the station to which you are listening, or by calling on your county agent.

GRAPES

Those of you who grow grapes should get a copy of Farmers' Bulletin 1220, "Insect and Fungous Enemies of the Grape." This bulletin is of greatest importance in four restricted districts where grapes are grown extensively on a commercial scale. One of these is west-central and western New York, another is southeastern Michigan, another is northwestern Arkansas, and adjacent parts of Missouri and Oklahoma, the fourth and biggest of all being California. But much of the information in this bulletin will be found of value to grape growers in other parts of the country, even to those who have only a few vines.

HOLLY WREATHS

Tonight when you decorate your Christmas tree and hang up a few Holly wreaths, it may be of interest to you to know where these Christmas greens come from, and how they reach you. When I was a boy living in eastern Ohio, we did not have the annual Christmas tree, but instead we hung up our stockings around the fireplace. There were no evergreens in that part of the country which could be cut for Christmas trees, and the shipment of Christmas trees had not yet been commercialized. Now hundreds and hundreds of carloads of Christmas trees are shipped to the big cities and to sections of the country where evergreens do not grow naturally.

Christmas wreaths, especially those made of Holly are becoming more and more popular. These wreaths are made mostly by women who live on farms and in the small towns of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Recently, the manufacture and shipment of Holly wreaths has attained great proportions in parts of Delaware where there is a large supply of wild Holly. In gathering the Holly from which to make the wreaths only the short tips of the branches are removed from the trees. The following year the trees make a new growth and the short branches or tips can be removed from the same trees year after year without any

great injury to the trees themselves.

The men go into the woods, gather the Holly and bring it home where the women do the work of wiring the Holly tips on wooden hoops in the form of beautiful wreaths. An industrious worker can make from 75 to 100 of these wreaths in a day and they are paid from 7 to 10 cents apiece for them, depending upon the size and quality of the wreath. These wreaths are gathered every day by dealers and are packed 14 to 17 dozen to a case, loaded unto cars and shipped not only to the large cities, but all over the Middle West where no Holly is found growing. The boxes of wreaths are consigned to dealers who sell them to you for use in decorating your home tonight for tomorrow's Christmas festivities.

Thus you will see that back of the wreath that you hang upon your front door or in your window, there is a long, long story, but that some person or persons who gathered the Holly and after many finger pricks from the sharp stickers on the Holly leaves, made a wreath for which they received a few cents for their Christmas money and incidentally gave you a beautiful wreath with which to adorn your home.

In closing my talk today I want to thank my many personal friends and the many thousands of friends of the United States Department of Agriculture throughout the country who have written letters expressing their appreciation of the National Farm and Home Hour programs. Both personally and as representative of the Department of Agriculture I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

